

For years it has been apparent that many students in required general mathematics courses either choose not to or simply cannot read the textbook. The ability to read and understand mathematics text should be a primary goal of general mathematics courses. I have assigned writing assignments in my classes in which the students are responding to a reading assignments. The results are mixed. For the past two summers I have taught a class for pre-service high school teachers. One of the assignments has been to write a review of an algebra textbook. I would like to share with you the results from this assignment. Though the members of the class make some valid criticisms, the view of most of the class is that mathematics textbooks are simply impossible to read. It is my intention to do reasearch on why this attitude is so prevalent and how to overcome this attitude